



Park Operations and Education  
Washington Office

# The National Park Service

## Risk Management Newsletter

**Edition III**

**Risk Management/IMRD**

**March 2001**



### News! News! News!

## Safety Awards

**Significant Safety Awards were Received  
January 18, 2001**



Robert W. Johnson of  
National Capital Parks-East  
received the "Safety  
Professional of the Year  
Award" ★



Gloria Brown of National  
Capital Region received the  
"Assistant Secretary of Labor  
Award" ★

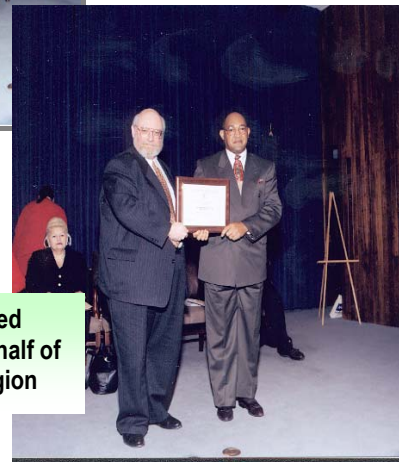
These awards were sponsored and presented by  
the Metropolitan Washington Federal Safety and  
Health Council. This was the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Awards Program and Ceremony.

Mike Kaas received  
Safety Award on  
behalf of the  
Dept. of the Interior



Jo Ann Pena received  
Safety Award on behalf of  
the National Park Service

Gentry Davis received  
Safety Award on behalf of  
National Capital Region



## Awards continued:

### Selections have been made for recipients of the:



#### 2000 Director's Employee Safety Achievement Award

Jeffrey M. Budny, Lincoln Home Historic Site



#### National Park Service Andrew Clark Hecht Memorial Public Safety Achievement Award

Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and its partners,

- Texas Parks and Wildlife Wardens
- U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 52

## Safety Stand Down Days at Bryce Canyon National Park

Fifty-five employees at Bryce Canyon National Park participated in the successful and first-ever "Safety Stand Down Day" (SSDD) at the park. The park Superintendent, Fred J. Fagergren, the management team, permanent and temporary employees, VIP's, SCA's and student interns all assisted in "changing work ethics and making safety a top priority" at Bryce Canyon.

The idea for the SSDD was suggested by a member of the park's Safety Committee, Bob Nalwalker. Bob, a park ranger with the visitor protection staff, is an advocate of both employee and visitor safety. His idea was generated in accord with the Department Safety Day on April 5, 2000. The park held a general "What's Happening" meeting that day, and several Safety Awards were presented, including a "Think Twice. Work Safe." (Department of the Interior) pin to Ranger Nalwalker. The actual SSDD was scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2000. Numerous organizational meetings were held and the park's Safety Committee led the way through the logistics. Excellent cross-divisional cooperation was required to pull it all off.

The Safety Committee met with the eight-selected group leaders on April 19, 2000, with the goal to identify safety discrepancies within the park, both in the workplace and the environment encountered by park visitors.

Eight groups, with names like "Safety Snoopers" and "Clark's Crusaders" spent the entire day "inspecting" their assigned locations and identifying discrepancies based upon Risk Assessment Codes. The "A's" were Imminent Danger, the "B's" were Serious Hazards and the "C's" were Non-serious Hazards. The beautiful spring day began with all employees meeting in our Maintenance Yard at 8:00 AM. Superintendent Fagergren addressed all employees and shared his strong commitment to safety at Bryce Canyon National Park. The message expressed was loud and clear, safety is a top priority at Bryce Canyon.

Each group conducted their own safety talks and safety tailgate sessions prior to beginning the day's work. At noon, a "Mexican Potluck" was held at our employee's picnic area. At that time, groups that completed their areas were reassigned to assist other groups that had areas larger or complex areas. The groups met back at the Maintenance Yard at 3 P.M. and completed prioritizing their lists. At 3:30 PM the groups reconvened and a recap of the day was presented, along with cookies to assist in sustaining our hard-working, dedicated employees. The day adjourned at 4:00 PM. Overall, employees agreed the day was a rewarding success and the park's Safety Committee recognized the entire staff for their participation.

As a result of the first SSDD, an additional day was scheduled to address the SSDD discrepancies identified. On September 20, 2000, a Safety Stand Down "Work Day" was held to assist with specific projects, which had been previously identified. Many of the safety discrepancies were addressed immediately, while others were long-term projects, which would need to be incorporated into divisional annual work plans.

There were 41 "A's", 37 "B's", and 47 "C's" identified as safety discrepancies. Many of the discrepancies were and are being addressed by work orders, through cross-divisional annual work plans, long-term funding, concessioner responsibilities, housing resident's responsibilities and Safety Stand Down Day "Work Days".

49 employees participated in the first-ever Safety Stand Down "Work Day" and assisted in addressing safety discrepancies in North and Sunset Campgrounds, the Maintenance Yard, the Mixing Circle, the Well House (East Creek Wells site) and the District Ranger's Office area. The perfect Indian summer day began at 8:00 AM, with group leaders assigning tasks to perform, ensuring that proper PPE and safety precautions were adhered to and providing guidance when necessary. The result was a satisfied feeling of accomplishment; teamwork among employees; and knowledge the park was a safer place for employees and visitors at the end of a very successful workday.

